

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-37 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 15, 16, 22, 23, and 28 were amended. Consequently claims 1-37 remain pending. This amendment is being submitted along with a petition under 37 CFR §1.313(c) to withdraw the present application from issuance in order to enter the present amendment and to have references considered that were recently cited during a rejection of co-pending Patent Application No. 09/608,123 by Examiner Colin of Group Art Unit 2136. An RCE and IDS citing the references is submitted herewith.

Independent claim 1, 9, 15, and 22 mistakenly recite that “verification keys” and “key Ids” are distributed to indicia devices. Independent claims 1, 9, 15, and 22 have now been amended to cancel this limitation, and to thereby make the claims comport with the recitations of independent claim 28. More particularly, claims 1, 9, 15, and 22 were amended to recite that the “verification keys” and “key IDs” are distributed only to the establishments in the respective geographic designations, rather than also being distributed to the indicia generating devices. Instead, “at least one secret key” is assigned and distributed to the indicia devices in the respective indicia generating device groups that the indicia devices use to generate the verification keys and key IDs when evidencing postage.

Because these Amendments were already present in other claims and are discussed throughout the specification, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been entered.

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance.
Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at
the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

SAWYER LAW GROUP LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen G. Sullivan', is written over a horizontal line.

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Date